undp

update

Vol. 4, no. 14, 8 July 1991
Published by the Division of Information,
United Nations Development Programme,
One UN Plaza, New York, NY 10017

news & events

New York. UNDP's Governing Council concluded its 38th session here on 25 June after weeks of deliberations on many pressing issues. Decisions were made regarding the increased use of national execution for UNDP projects, new support cost arrangements, senior management structure and preparations for the next programming cycle. The Council also voiced approval of UNDP's role in supporting economic reforms in Eastern Europe, and its collaboration with the World Health Organization in fighting the global spread of AIDS.

One decision that is particularly timely calls on UNDP, in co-operation with other agencies, to help raise resources for the immediate needs of refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, the Sudan and Yemen. The Council called on UNDP to assess the impact of these emergency situations on the development of the affected countries, and to offer assistance to help them cope.

UNDP was also asked to prepare a programme, in consultation with other agencies, donors, governments and non-governmental organizations, that will help revive the social and economic development of the countries affected by the Gulf crisis.

Another decision approved the provision of special assistance to the areas most effected by the nuclear plant accident at Chernobyl.

The Council reaffirmed the value of the *Human Development Report*. Before the 1992 Report is completed, UNDP will hold regional consultations with governments in order to consider specific human development concerns and priorities. UNDP Administrator William H. Draper III said that UNDP will take into account concerns raised by some Council members about the Human Freedom Index in preparing the 1992 Report.

New York. In a special meeting that took place here on 17 June, UNDP Administrator William H. Draper III met with the Prime Minister of Mongolia, Dashiin Byambasuren, to discuss that country's immediate and longer-term needs in light of the economic crisis now gripping the nation. Also participating in the meeting were the ambassadors of several donor countries, including Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, the Republic of Korea, Sweden, and the United States.

Prime Minister Byambasuren spoke of the historic changes that are now taking place in Mongolia. "We are encouraging in all ways foreign investment in our country," he said. "In September we will open a national stock exchange." In other major moves, the prime minister revealed that two-thirds of Mongolia's state properties are being privatized, prices are being deregulated and the banking system is being changed. The country is now pursuing "an open-door policy concerning foreign relations," the prime minister said.

During the first quarter of 1991, foreign trade, vital to Mongolia, dropped substantially. Imports fell by 66 per cent and exports by 58 per cent. The country's balance-of-payments deficit now stands at over $250 million, and its currency, the *tughrik*, was recently devalued from 7.1 to 40 for the US dollar. There are severe shortages of food, medicine and fuel.

Revenues desperately needed by the government have dropped sharply since the beginning of the year, while expenditures have steadily increased.

The discussions helped set the stage for Mongolia's first international donors meeting, organized by UNDP and scheduled to take place in Ulaanbaatar 10-12 October.

Delft. An international symposium organized by UNDP here in the Netherlands last month focused on the urgent need to strengthen the management capabilities of national institutions in the water sector. The Delft Declaration was adopted at the symposium, attended by over 70 experts in the water field. It calls on governments and the donor community to emphasize institution building, training and improved management of water resources in future assistance.

u p d

Stamps recently issued in Cameroon commemorate UNDP's 40th Anniversary.

Frank Hartvelt, Deputy Director of UNDP's Division for Global and Interregional Programmes, said that too much emphasis "has been placed on constructing, on equipment and machinery, on the visible and concrete aspects of development." What is needed now "is less money for large capital projects and more investment in human resources and institution building," he said. "This is bound to lead to better development in the end, and will help governments cope with competing demands for water from fast-growing urban areas."

Kuala Lumpur. A workshop on poverty for UNDP Resident Representatives in Asia and the Pacific was held here to explore the root causes of poverty in the region and ways that UNDP can respond. Senior management from the Regional Bureau at headquarters attended, as well as 22 Resident Representatives from the region.

"Despite the laudable economic achievements in our region over the past four decades, over 800 million people still remain poor," said K.G. Singh, Director of UNDP's Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific. "The region harbours by far the largest concentration of poor people," he said. "South Asia alone is home to almost half the world's poor." Most of the poor living in this part of the world are concentrated in five countries: Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia and the Philippines.

An important outcome of the meeting was the drafting of a plan of action that helps to explain the causes of poverty in Asian and Pacific countries along with possible measures to help reduce it. The plan calls for sensitizing field staff to the needs and conditions of poor people and recommends that greater attention be paid to poverty alleviation and human development in the next programming cycle.

projects approved by the action committee

(all approvals subject to modification; sums quoted in US dollars)

5 June 1991

Bangladesh. A Disaster Coordination and Monitoring Unit will be set up within the Ministry of Relief to help manage immediate and longer-term relief efforts. Studies on disaster situations and preparedness will be undertaken and a Cyclone Action Plan will be drawn up. Some 150,000 people were killed, and 790,000 homes destroyed, when Bangladesh was struck by a disastrous cyclone in April. Proposed UNDP contribution from Special Programme Resources: $1.1 million for training, data collection and equipment. Executed by UNDP's Office for Project Services (OPS) and implemented by the Ministry of Relief. (BGD/91/021)

a t e

Chad. To help this landlocked country overcome a shortage of skilled labour, UNDP will provide the services of UN Volunteers (UNVs) and Domestic Development Service workers to carry out vocational training and other educational programmes. Areas of focus include physics, chemistry, forestry, agronomy, animal husbandry, construction, electrical and mechanical engineering. Grassroots development initiatives in communities will also be encouraged. Proposed UNDP contribution: $1,516,200, with an additional $189,000 from the UNV Programme. Funds will pay for UNVs, training, equipment and a capital fund for grassroots communities. Executed by UNV and implemented by the Ministry of Planning. (CHD/91/002)

Lebanon. Civil strife over the past 15 years has taken a heavy toll on the country's air transport sector and related service industries. UNDP assistance under this project will focus on rehabilitating air transport in Lebanon, particularly at Beirut Airport. Civil aviation regulations will be improved to meet international standards and equipment for telecommunications and navigational aids will be upgraded. Training will be carried out to help ensure air safety and adequate airport maintenance. Proposed UNDP contribution: $1,587,300 for civil aviation experts, equipment and training. Executed by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and implemented by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation. (LEB/91/001)

Oman. Support for a training programme at the Directorate General of Civil Aviation and Meteorology (DGCAM) will help the government improve the calibre of Omani workers in the civil aviation sector and reduce reliance on expatriate personnel. Airport operations, safety and efficiency will also be improved. Proposed UNDP budget, provided through government cost-sharing: $2,575,600, for a fellowship training programme, on-the-job training and civil aviation experts. Executed by ICAO and implemented by DGCAM. (OMA/90/009)

Interregional project:

Under this second phase of the Trade Expansion Programme, UNDP will continue to assist developing countries in devising and carrying out trade policy reforms aimed at stimulating international commerce. New countries are expected to benefit from assistance under this phase, and a variety of follow-up activities will be undertaken, including assisting governments in the design of related projects. Increased collaboration with the UN Conference on Trade and Development, the International Telecommunication Union and with a number of regional institutions is expected. Proposed UNDP contribution for this phase: $765,000 for a programme co-director, administrative costs, consultants and training. Executed by the World Bank and implemented by the finance, planning and trade ministries of participating countries. (INT/90/036)

29 May 1991

Chad. Follow-up assistance from UNDP will focus on strengthening the Department of Geology and Mineral Exploration. Training and policy guidance will help improve the Department's ability to conduct mineral exploration, processing and investment promotion while gradually phasing out reliance on expatriate personnel. Proposed UNDP contribution: $3,936,000 for geologists, fellowships, study tours and drilling equipment. Executed by the UN Department of Technical Co-operation for Development (UN/DTCD) and implemented by the Ministry of Mines, Oil and Energy. (CHD/90/003)

Chad. UNDP will help increase food security by strengthening the research capabilities of a seed production centre at Gassi. Improved seeds for several basic food crops will be sought, including millet, sorghum, chick peas and maize. Technical support and seeds will be provided to several production facilities. Proposed UNDP contribution: $2,606,000 for an agro-engineer, a seed selection specialist, fellowships and equipment. Executed by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture. (CHD/91/004)

Guinea-Bissau. UNDP will assist the government's National System of Statistical Information unit by helping to improve its administrative, management and co-

READEX FICHE

ordination capabilities. Proposed UNDP contribution: $753,400 for a specialist in statistical organization, consultants in informatics, training and administrative costs. The Government of Portugal is providing additional consultancies and fellowship training with separate funding of $159,000. Executed by UN/DTCD and implemented by the State Secretariat for Planning. (GBS/90/005)

Zimbabwe. UNDP is helping the country carry out an economic reform programme aimed at promoting long-term growth and reducing poverty. Government staff will receive training involving programme management and coordination, fiscal policy, trade liberalization and deregulation, public sector reform and the social consequences on vulnerable groups. Proposed UNDP contribution: $2,538,000 for consultancies, training, study tours and equipment. Government-executed and implemented by the Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development. (ZIM/90/001)

Regional project:

Arab States and Europe. UNDP is helping to establish the Centre for the Environment and Development for the Arab Region and Europe (CEDARE) so that environmental concerns are integrated into development efforts throughout the region. Total UNDP budget: $11 million, half of which is cost-sharing from CEDARE member-countries. Funds will pay for a director, programme leaders, department staff, training and equipment. Executed by the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development and implemented by CEDARE. (RAB/90/024)

United Nations
Development Programme
One UN Plaza,
New York, NY 10017

update

Vol. 4, no. 15, 22 July 1991
Published by the Division of Information, United Nations Development Programme, One UN Plaza, New York, NY 10017

news & events

Geneva. The end of the Cold War has signaled a new era in which the power of the individual will find full expression, UNDP Administrator William H. Draper III told the UN's Economic and Social Council here on 4 July. The theme for discussion at this special high-level meeting was the impact of new East-West relations on the growth of the world economy. "Inexorably linked with the political empowerment of individuals is the economic empowerment of the people," Mr. Draper told delegates.

As Eastern Europe grapples with its problems, he said, UNDP is designing innovative programmes of technical co-operation placing human development at the core of the transition process. Mr. Draper noted, however, that additional external funds must be raised to provide the financial and staff resources required for critical technical support.

"Economic growth is necessary for human development," he said. "But much can be done by reallocating existing resources and ensuring human freedom and human rights." The environment, too, must be preserved for future generations. Mr. Draper noted that UNDP has been asked to provide technical assistance in the clean-up of Chernobyl.

He also reminded delegates that despite the excitement generated by changes in Eastern Europe, the greatest development challenges remain in the least developed countries. The majority of these are in Africa, where incomes fell by nearly 20 per cent in the 1980s.

Referring to UNDP's 1991 *Human Development Report*, Mr. Draper told delegates that less than one-tenth of total public spending in the developing world goes toward priority human needs. Industrialized countries, as a group, give three-tenths of one per cent of their combined GNP for foreign aid. But less than one-twelfth of this aid goes for areas where the need is greatest.

Québec City. This historic walled city, one of the oldest in North America, was the site of an International Symposium on World Heritage Towns, organized by the City of Québec under the auspices of UNESCO. Held from 30 June through 4 July, the meeting was the first of its kind, bringing together mayors and technical teams from 44 out of 70 towns and urban centres from UNESCO's World Heritage List.

Workshops were presented on issues ranging from public participation to municipal financing and the impact of tourism on historic urban centres in cities as diverse as Fez, Cuzco and Budapest.

Sylvio Mutal, chief technical adviser of UNDP's Regional Project for Cultural Heritage and Development in Latin America, led one of the workshop sessions concerned with reconciling historic preservation with the pressures of rapid change. Mr. Mutal pointed out that by the year 2000, 80 per cent of Latin America's population will live in cities and towns.

"If heritage is not incorporated into the life of the community and integrated into each city's comprehensive planning programmes, then that World Heritage Site is at risk," said Christina Cameron, chairman of UNESCO's World Heritage Committee. One outcome of the symposium was an agreement to form an information network among the 70 World Heritage Towns, to promote an active sharing of ideas and solutions to common problems.

Geneva. UNDP can play a leading role in helping the South Commission address its six-point global programme to combat world poverty, UNDP Administrator William H. Draper III told a panel discussion of the Economic and Social Council held here earlier this month. The South Commission is an independent organization set up in 1987 to look at developing world issues.

Its six-point plan was released in a report last year. It calls for action

to stop the net transfer of resources from South to North, create multilateral arrangements for protecting the global environment, double the volume of concessional transfer of resources to developing countries by 1995, establish an independent means for evaluating the financial needs of developing countries, devise a timetable for lifting protectionist trade barriers affecting developing country exports, and protect developing countries against excessive fluctuations in international interest and exchange rates.

The informal panel, which exchanged views on the South Commission report, included the Secretary-General of the UN Conference on Trade and Development, the Minister for Co-operation of the Netherlands, the President of the African Development Bank, and a parliamentarian from Brazil.

During the discussion, Mr. Draper cited common principles which UNDP's *Human Development Report* shares with the South Commission Report. Among them is the idea that economic growth is necessary, but much can be done to reallocate existing resources. Higher GNP levels, he said, do not necessarily guarantee human development.

Mr. Draper urged further exploration of the link between human development and human freedom. He also said that objectives for the advancement of women had to be more effectively translated from rhetoric into reality and more attention should be placed on the role of women in development. He warned that regulatory policies must not hamper entrepreneurship, technical advances or competition.

Noting that institutional reforms are essential to enhance public sector efficiency, Mr. Draper pointed to UNDP's Management Development Programme as an important tool established to assist countries with such institutional reforms. He underscored the need for stronger technical co-operation among developing countries, and emphasized UNDP's readiness to intensify its efforts in South-South co-operation.

New York. UNDP hosted a multilateral meeting on spouse employment issues on 25 June. The purpose was to find out what other international organizations are currently doing in the area of dual careers and international spouse employment, and give participants the opportunity to share information on potential policies.

UNDP currently reassigns an average of 250 people and their families a year among its 117 offices worldwide. "UNDP's ability to attract and retain quality staff from all regions, North and South, will depend, to an increasingly significant extent, on spouse employment progress for both men and women spouses," Associate Administrator Luis María Gómez told the 40 meeting participants. The group included representatives from the UN system, international organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), diplomatic missions to the UN, multinational corporations and ministries of foreign affairs.

To better understand spouse employment problems, UNDP is currently surveying its field offices. Mr. Gómez reported that with more than three-quarters of the Resident Representatives responding so far, 82 per cent have said that spouses generally cannot find appropriate employment in their locales within three to six months.

Many of the participants discussed their own national and multilateral approaches, regulations, staff benefits, policies and concerns on the subject.

The group recommended the development of a system of community liaisons to handle local spouse employment issues, the creation of local data banks of spouse skills that could be shared with international and local organizations, and the collection of information on potential jobs at each field location. They also recommended spouse language training.

Washington, D.C. Small and medium-sized enterprises in Zimbabwe will receive much-needed equity financing for start-up and expansion from the Venture Capital Company of Zimbabwe, Ltd., a new institution created with assistance from the International Finance Corporation (IFC).

UNDP financed a feasibility study on the new company, which now has an authorized capital base of $20 million. Along with IFC, the company's sponsors include the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe, the Commonwealth Development Corporation, private Zimbabwean companies and financial institutions.

The Venture Capital Company will contribute to the growth of the Zimbabwean economy by offering capital to businesses with a growing need for risk capital. It will also help mobilize scarce

equity capital from local sources to finance potentially high-growth, high-profit small and medium-sized enterprises.

New York. *The World's Women 1970-1990,* a new book prepared by the UN Statistical Office, offers the most comprehensive analysis of global indicators on the status of women available in the world. It contains data from 178 countries on subjects ranging from marriage patterns and child-bearing to educational and employment trends. The 120-page volume is the result of collaboration and support from a wide range of UN agencies, including the UN Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), which contributed $50,000 towards the publication.

According to the book, in order for women to receive greater equality of opportunity, extensive changes are necessary in policy, in government, in business and in the way decisions are made in every household.

In his preface to the publication, UN Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar writes, "It is clear that, although there have been some improvements for women over the past 20 years, the majority still lag behind men in power, wealth and opportunity. The data in this book will generate awareness of the situation, guide policy, mobilize action and monitor progress towards improvements."

The book is available for US$19.95 from the UN Publications Sales Section in New York and Geneva. The sales number is E.90.XVII.3.

projects approved by the action committee

(all approvals subject to modification; sums quoted in US dollars)

19 June 1991

Lao PDR. This urban development project will help rehabilitate the Sihom District, one of the poorest and most densely populated areas of downtown Vientiane. The UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) will provide support for drainage reconstruction and realignment of the Nam Passak canal. This will allow for 160 new low-income housing lots on six hectares of reclaimed land. In addition, new roads will be constructed. A water supply system and electrical network will be installed, and a primary school for 350 students will be built. UNCDF will also provide a credit fund for low-cost housing. Proposed UNCDF contribution: $2,923,704 for construction costs and a revolving credit fund. Executed by the UN Centre of Human Settlements (Habitat) and implemented by the Ministry of Communication, Transport, Post and Construction. (LAO/89/C01)

Lao PDR. Technical assistance will be provided by UNDP for the UNCDF-supported rehabilitation effort in the Sihom District of Vientiane. Focus will be on strengthening institutions and improving Laotian skills in urban development. New government offices will be established to carry out urban development projects at the community, municipal and federal levels. Existing public institutions will be improved through training in urban planning and financial management. Aerial photography and digital mapping capabilities will also be upgraded. Proposed UNDP contribution: $1,673,000 for an urban planner, experts in municipal administration and urban development, UN Volunteers specialists, study tours, in-service training and equipment. Executed by Habitat and implemented by the Ministry of Communication, Transport, Post and Construction. (LAO/89/002)

Mauritania. Follow-up assistance from the UN Sudano-Sahelian Office (UNSO) is aimed at helping local communities monitor and maintain desertification control operations. Community groups are being encouraged to manage a programme of pasture rotation, improvement of grazing areas, harvesting and conservation of fodder and dam construction in 64 village sites. This project will extend conservation and agroforestry measures to 20 new sites. An integrated rural development approach will be devised for future use in other villages. It will include soil and water conservation, pasture improvement and agricultural production. A socio-economic study of local development priorities will also be conducted. Additional UNSO contribution: $1,410,130 to cover costs of research and preparation of socio-economic and financial analyses, travel, five fellowships in Mali, Morocco and the US, local training and project equipment. Proposed UNDP contribution: $277,000 for an integrated rural management expert. Executed by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN and implemented by the Ministry of Rural Development. (MAU/86/X01)

Sri Lanka. UNDP is supporting a national effort to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS infection. Assistance will concentrate on educating health care specialists, social workers, school teachers, community volunteers, the general public and high-risk groups about transmission and preventive measures. Surveillance, blood screening, counselling and medical care for AIDS patients will be provided through relevant government institutions and NGOs. An executive secretariat of the National AIDS Committee will also be created. Proposed UNDP contribution: $1,535,000 for management consultants, production of training and information materials, surveys, study tours, laboratory equipment and supplies. Executed by the government in association with the World Health Organization and implemented by the Ministry of Health. (SRL/89/024)

12 June 1991

Sri Lanka. Under this preparatory phase, a government Restructuring Management Unit will be created to carry out public sector reforms. This Unit will assist national ministries and provincial councils in carrying out new policies such as market liberalization and reducing the size of the public sector. Proposed UNDP contribution: $1.3 million for consultancies, equipment and study tours. Executed by the government and implemented by the Ministry of Policy Planning and Implementation. (SRL/90/501)

Viet Nam. This is part of a UNCDF-funded project to develop irrigation, power supply and feeder roads in the Dai Loc District of Da Nang Province. The project contributes to two important national development objectives: to increase domestic food production and expand the country's basic infrastructure. Under this project, diesel power generators will be provided to increase electricity supply in the Da Nang power network. The Dai Loc power network will be expanded to include micro-hydropower stations in nearby Dai Quang, Song Cung and Dai Dong. One of the major beneficiaries of the increased power supply will be a network of irrigation pump stations in the district's agricultural areas. Proposed UNCDF contribution: $3,677,797 for consultants, engineering services, electrical and civil works, equipment and spare parts. Executed by UNDP's Office for Project Services and implemented by the Da Nang Province People's Committee. (VIE/90/C01)

United Nations
Development Programme
One UN Plaza,
New York, NY 10017

update

Vol. 4, no. 16, 5 August 1991
Published by the Division of Information, United Nations Development Programme, One UN Plaza, New York, NY 10017

news and events

Beijing. An agreement for the largest volume of cost-sharing contributions for emergency assistance ever mobilized by UNDP's China office was signed on 19 July at the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade. The US$7.2 million bilateral and international aid package for emergency relief assistance to China will assist flood victims in Anhui, Jiangsu and Henan provinces.

The funds will be used for water purification facilities, medicines, tents, blankets and construction materials for temporary shelter. The torrential rains, which fell in May and June, killed more than 500 people.

"UNDP has taken the lead in co-ordinating the emergency assistance following the appeal made by the Government of China on 6 July for international assistance," said Roy Morey, UNDP's Resident Representative in China.

The funds will be administered by UNDP through the Ministry of Civil Affairs. They include contributions from Australia, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, the Netherlands, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, the United States and Hong Kong. In addition, the UN Disaster Relief Organization contributed $20,000, UNICEF contributed $25,000, the World Health Organization (WHO) provided $10,000 and UNDP contributed $50,000.

Geneva. More than $500 million in relief aid has been earmarked for the reconstruction of Bangladesh in the wake of the cyclone last April that left an estimated 140,000 people dead. The funds were pledged at a 16 July meeting here, after delegates to the Economic and Social Council examined the first comprehensive report on the cyclone damage.

The report, prepared by a 10-agency task force spearheaded by UNDP, estimates that $2.4 billion is needed for reconstruction. It also calls for increasing the capacity of the country's emergency shelters, which can now accommodate only 1,600 people. The cyclone left at least three million homeless.

The countries that so far have agreed to help fund the reconstruction effort are Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Turkey and the UK. The European Community, the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank and the Islamic Development Bank have also made major pledges. The relief funds will be used to help rebuild schools, houses, bridges, roads and airports.

New York. UNDP should play a key role in collaboration with WHO and other UN agencies in the next stages of international efforts to reduce maternal deaths and disability, says a recently released Safe Motherhood report. Issued by UNDP's Division for Global and Interregional Programmes (DGIP), the report is an assessment of UNDP's global, regional and national contributions towards reducing maternal deaths in developing countries. The paper, entitled "Safe Motherhood, Priorities and Next Steps", considers what UNDP should be doing during the 1990s.

In researching the report, the assessment team interviewed more than 200 people from the UN, non-governmental agencies and bilateral donor agencies. They visited Senegal and Indonesia, where UNDP has supported and encouraged some of the first national needs assessments in the area of safe motherhood.

Maternal mortality is the leading cause of death among women in developing countries, according to the report. However, it says, the majority of the 500,000 maternal deaths each year can be prevented. Almost 98 per cent of these deaths occur in the developing world. If maternal health care and family planning are not extended beyond current levels, by the year 2000 the annual maternal death rate will rise to 650,000.

The report recommends that UNDP initiate a collaboration between other agencies and foundations to establish a 10-year International Partnership to Prevent Maternal Deaths and Disability. It would be administered by WHO on behalf of the Partnership. The aim would be to strengthen national capabilities and provide technical assistance for reducing maternal death and disability rates.

The team also recommended that UNDP educate its staff, particularly those in the field, in the area of maternal mortality. A handbook should be developed to explain specific approaches to reducing maternal deaths and disability.

The report can be obtained free-of-charge by writing to Ms. Mina Mauerstein-Bail, Programme Co-ordinator, DGIP, United Nations Development Programme, One UN Plaza, Rm. FF-1298, New York, NY 10017.

Libreville. Ministers of Planning of Central, Eastern, Southern and Western Africa and their senior officials participated in four meetings convened by UNDP's Regional Bureau for Africa in July. The meetings, each lasting three days, took place in Zambia, Kenya, Côte d'Ivoire and Gabon.

These gatherings were geared toward sharpening the focus of UNDP's programme response to the critical needs and priorities in Africa. Discussion topics included environmental management and development planning, science and technology and economic development, the HIV/AIDS epidemic and maternal mortality.

The conclusions of these discussions will help shape UNDP's Fifth Cycle Regional Programme (1992-1996), which will be presented at a regional meeting of African Planning Ministers and UNDP Resident Representatives scheduled for November this year.

Buenos Aires. The challenges facing Latin American and Caribbean countries in promoting regional and international commerce and trade was the main topic of discussion at a meeting held here on 17-18 July. Organized by UNDP, the gathering was the third in a series of meetings which will address such regional priorities as critical poverty, combatting drugs, reform of the state and modernization of the productive sector.

The meeting included representatives from Argentina's public and private sectors, international economic research centres, UN agencies, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the Inter-American Development Bank, and UNDP Resident Representatives from Argentina, Brazil and Cuba.

Conference participants discussed strategies and policies to reverse the region's decreasing share in global trade. They also reviewed the impact of a free trade zone from Alaska to Tierra del Fuego, an initiative enunciated last year by US President George Bush. In addition, participants urged UNDP to provide information on potential investment and joint ventures with companies in Eastern Europe and Southeast Asia.

projects approved by the action committee

(all approvals subject to modification; sums quoted in US dollars)

3 July 1991

Mali. Assistance from the UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) is part of a broad-scale effort aimed at boosting rice production in northern Mali. It will help prepare and equip the Bourem-Foghas plains for controlled flooding and mechanized irrigation. UNCDF will provide funds to dig canals feeding into the plains, build a protective dike and watercontrol gates, and purchase motor pumps for irrigation. Forage crops will be planted along the banks of the Goucha to control soil erosion. A functional literacy programme will be developed to strengthen farmers associations. The World Food Programme will assist villagers through its food-for-work policy. Proposed UNCDF contribution: $3,215,300 for consultancies, civil works costs, equipment and a revolving credit fund of $169,700. Implemented by the Ministry of Rural Development. (MLI/86/C03)

Papua New Guinea. Follow-up assistance from UNDP is expected to strengthen government management of public incomes. With a new computerized

accounting system already in place, staff at the Public Accounts Division will receive training in systems development, troubleshooting and monitoring performance. The Division's cash flow management and fiscal monitoring will be upgraded. The Regional Secretariat, which administers five provinces in Papua New Guinea, will also be strengthened to increase revenues. Proposed UNDP contribution: $988,000. Government cost-sharing: $1,265,000. Third-party cost-sharing from Australia: $1,242,000. Funds are to pay for experts, UN Volunteer specialists and training. Executed by the UN Department of Technical Co-operation for Development and implemented by the Ministry of Finance and Planning. (PNG/86/001)

Romania. Romania is currently in a phase of political and economic transition. Reforms and restructuring in many sectors are now being undertaken. One growing concern is the impact of industrial pollution on public health and the environment. UNDP will assist the Romanian government clean up the environment and promote sustainable development of industries. Studies will be launched in the four most hazardous industrial areas identified by the Ministry of Public Health. Resulting data will be used to draw up action plans for reducing environmental hazards in these areas. Funds of $400,000 from UNDP's Special Programme Resources (SPRs) are to pay for consultants, subcontract, training and equipment. Executed by the UN Industrial Development Organization in association with the UN Environment Programme. Implemented by the Ministry of Environment. (ROM/91/002)

Regional project:

Pacific Multi-Island. UNDP will help launch the South Pacific Project Facility to assist Pacific island countries in generating investment and business. The Facility is a new initiative modeled after a successful UNDP-supported strategy that nurtured small and medium-sized enterprises in Africa and the Caribbean. Initially, the South Pacific Facility will strengthen development banks and financial institutions and assist governments with privatization programmes. It is expected to identify and help at least 40 small to medium-sized business ventures. Women entrepreneurs will be given special attention. Australia, Canada and Japan are among the donors contributing to the Facility. Proposed UNDP contribution: $750,000 for consultancy. Proposed donors' contribution: $6.25 million. Executed by the World Bank/International Finance Corporation. (PMI/89/003)

26 June 1991

China. UNDP will assist China in streamlining the public sector to achieve greater efficiency in economic management. Training and guidance in devising administrative reforms and drafting legislation will be provided for the State Organization and Establishment Committee (SOEC), as well as for a network of provincial and local committees. Proposed UNDP contribution: $2,136,700 for experts in public administration, 13 training courses for 500 staff and 190 lawyers, study tours for 30 government officials, seminars and equipment. Executed by the China International Center for Economic and Technical Exchange and implemented by the General Office of the SOEC. (CPR/91/512)

Ghana. UNDP has been supporting a national agroforestry programme to fight environmental degradation, increase food and wood supply and improve the quality of life of the rural population. This project will assist the Agroforestry Unit in introducing improved land-use practices previously carried out on another 30,000-hectare site. Three-hundred-thirty-five nursery plots and 247 demonstration centres will be added to Ghana's 10 regions. Special attention will be given to training government staff, community groups, non-governmental organizations and farmers. A national co-ordination network will also be established. Additional UNDP contribution for project extension: $739,000 for experts in agroforestry, rural extension, fellowships, group training and in-service training. Executed by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN and implemented by the Agroforestry Unit, Ministry of Agriculture. (GHA/88/007)

Nigeria. This project seeks to reduce unemployment in Nigeria especially at a time of crucial

economic reforms. UNDP is supporting a pilot programme aimed at promoting labour-intensive techniques for rural infrastructure works. Now in its third phase, the project extends a special public works programme and training in infrastructure development to 11 local government sites in nine States. It also aims to strengthen government planning in public works at the federal, state and local levels. Proposed UNDP contribution: $2,966,356 for a chief technical adviser and engineers, consultants, fellowships, study tours, in-country training and equipment. Executed by the International Labour Organisation and implemented by the National Directorate of Employment. (NIR/90/014)

Interregional projects:

Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Arab States and Europe. The overall goal of these projects is to assist developing countries in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean and the Arab States and Europe in improving their public sectors by enhancing the management capabilities of governments. Supplementary funding will be provided through 1991 to undertake missions for management surveys and other preparatory steps needed to carry out UNDP's Management Development Programme. Additional UNDP contributions from SPRs: $700,000 for Africa, $300,000 for Asia and the Pacific, $300,000 for Latin America and the Caribbean, and $400,000 for the Arab States and Europe. Funds will pay for mission costs, consultants and studies. Executed by UNDP's Office for Project Services. (INT/90/516 - Africa, INT/90/526 - Asia and the Pacific, INT/90/536 - Latin America and the Caribbean, INT/90/546 - Arab States and Europe)

Correction

Half of the total UNDP budget of $11 million for an environmental regional project in the Arab States and Europe (RAB/90/024) will come from the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development.

United Nations Development Programme
One UN Plaza,
New York, NY 10017